

Subpart C—Selection of Indian Tribes for Participation in Self-Governance

§ 137.15 Who may participate in Tribal Self-Governance?

Those Self-Governance Tribes described in 503(a) of the Act [25 U.S.C. 458aaa–2(a)] participating in the Title III Tribal Self-Governance Demonstration Project and up to 50 additional Indian Tribes per year that meet the criteria in § 137.18 may participate in self-governance.

§ 137.16 What if more than 50 Indian Tribes apply to participate in self-governance?

The first Indian Tribes who apply and are determined to be eligible shall have the option to participate in self-governance. Any Indian Tribe denied participation due to the limitation in number of Indian Tribes that may take part is entitled to participate in the next fiscal year, provided the Indian Tribe continues to meet the financial stability and financial management capacity requirements.

§ 137.17 May more than one Indian Tribe participate in the same compact and/or funding agreement?

Yes, Indian Tribes may either:

- (a) Each sign the same compact and/or funding agreement, provided that each one meets the criteria to participate in self-governance and accepts legal responsibility for all financial and administrative decisions made under the compact or funding agreement, or
- (b) Authorize another Indian Tribe to participate in self-governance on their behalf.

§ 137.18 What criteria must an Indian Tribe satisfy to be eligible to participate in self-governance?

To be eligible to participate in self-governance, an Indian Tribe must have:

- (a) Successfully completed the planning phase described in § 137.20;
- (b) Requested participation in self-governance by resolution or other official action by the governing body of each Indian Tribe to be served; and

- (c) Demonstrated, for three fiscal years, financial stability and financial management capability.

PLANNING PHASE

§ 137.20 What is required during the planning phase?

The planning phase must be conducted to the satisfaction of the Indian Tribe and must include:

- (a) legal and budgetary research; and
- (b) internal Tribal government planning and organizational preparation relating to the administration of health programs.

§ 137.21 How does an Indian Tribe demonstrate financial stability and financial management capacity?

The Indian Tribe provides evidence that, for the three years prior to participation in self-governance, the Indian Tribe has had no uncorrected significant and material audit exceptions in the required annual audit of the Indian Tribe's self-determination contracts or self-governance funding agreements with any Federal agency.

§ 137.22 May the Secretary consider uncorrected significant and material audit exceptions identified regarding centralized financial and administrative functions?

Yes, if the Indian Tribe chooses to centralize its self-determination or self-governance financial and administrative functions with non-self-determination or non-self-governance financial and administrative functions, such as personnel, payroll, property management, etc., the Secretary may consider uncorrected significant and material audit exceptions related to the integrity of a cross-cutting centralized function in determining the Indian Tribe's eligibility for participation in the self-governance program.

§ 137.23 For purposes of determining eligibility for participation in self-governance, may the Secretary consider any other information regarding the Indian Tribe's financial stability and financial management capacity?

No, meeting the criteria set forth in §§ 137.21 and 137.22, shall be conclusive evidence of the required stability and